

Message Text

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TAGS:ETRD, UR, US
SUBJECT: "VISIT USA" COMMITTEE MEETING

1. "VISIT USA" COMMITTEE MET MARCH 10 TO DISCUSS THE
MARCH 20 AND 21 MEETING OF THE US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC
COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM. THE COMMITTEE AGREED
THAT IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO
PERSUADE THE SOVIETS TO EXPAND TOURISM TO THE UNITED
STATES, DESPITE SOVIET OBSTINACY: AS ONE OF THE MEMBERS
FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY (THOSE PRESENT WERE TRADE AND
ECONOMIC COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT, AMEXCO VICE-PRESIDENT,
AND PAN AM USSR DIRECTOR) EXPRESSED IT, IT WOULD
NOT MAKE SENSE TO "THROW IN THE TOWEL" AT THIS POINT. THE
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES DECIDED THAT THE BEST STRATEGY
WOULD CONSIST IN FORMULATING PROPOSALS SO REASONABLE, THAT
SOVIET OFFICIALS WHO COULD "BUDGE" BOYCHENKO, HEAD OF
INTOURIST AND THE SOVIET SIDE OF THE WORKING GROUP AND
THUS FAR INFLEXIBLE, WILL TAKE INTEREST. THE PROPOSALS
PUT FORTH BY THE MEMBERS FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
INCLUDED: (1) THAT INTOURIST BE PERSUADED TO ASSIST PAN
AMERICAN AND AMEXCO TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE CENTRAL
TRADE UNION COUNCIL AND OTHER TOURIST GROUPS, WHICH CAN
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ORGANIZE TOURIST GROUPS; AND (2) TO OBTAIN INTOURIST HELP
IN FINDING A LARGE DISPLAY WINDOW ON PROSPECT KALININA OR
ULITSA GOR'KOGO. FINALLY, IT WAS AGREED, IF THE COMMITTEE
IS INVITED TO WORKING GROUP MEETING, THAT ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR WOULD MAKE A SHORT STATEMENT AT THE
WORKING GROUP MEETING, REVIEWING THE PAST AND CONSIDERING
WHAT CAN BE DONE.

2. THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE "VISIT USA" COMMITTEE GO ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF A TOURISM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

3. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT AS TO WHETHER THE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH SUPPORT FOR SUCH A TOURIST AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL OF JULY 1977 (REFTEL C). TOON

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